

Completion of Daitari-Banspani Rail Line

3922. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banspani to Joruic (11 km.) section of Daitari-Banspani rail line has been completed and opened for goods traffic; and

(b) if so, when and by which date the remaining portion of that line would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target date of completion of the entire project of Daitari-Banspani new line was fixed as 31-12-2003. Project will be completed subject to availability of resources.

Restructuring of Railway Projects

3923. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revive Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on railway restructuring and also to have a thorough examination of the interim report;

(b) if so, whether finance is the main hurdle in restructuring various railway projects;

(c) if so, whether the Minister, assuming the charge recently, decided to formulate new policies to generate funds for restructuring of railway projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Dr. Rakesh Mohan is yet to submit the report. The various recommendations submitted by Rakesh Mohan Committee in the Interim Executive Summary are under examination in this Ministry.

Review of Railway functioning, including Reforms and Restructuring, is a continuous process. Suitable measures for

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

improvement in the overall functioning are considered and implemented, wherever found necessary and feasible.

Damage to Coaches on Test Run

3924. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 24 specially designed air conditioned Shatabdi styled coaches, with many advanced features, were heavily damaged while on test run between Ghaziabad and Khurja, as a result of severe stoning without provocation and sheer vandalism; and

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused, the steps taken to apprehend the culprits and to check such vandalism on rail (racks)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the trials of imported LHB coaches on 3rd, 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th March, 2001, 66 smoke glasses, 2 frosted glasses and 2 destination glasses were broken due to stone throwing by vandals between Ghaziabad and Khurja. The total value of property damaged was Rs. 2.8 lakhs approx.

Equity Participation by Railways in NTPC

3925. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have been considering to have equity participation in power generation projects of NTPC;

(b) whether modalities of such participation have been framed up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of legal viability of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Railways are exploring the possibility of joint ventures with NTPC and other public/private power producers so as to obtain power at reasonable rates. The modalities of such participation have not yet been firmed up.